

Emergency Preparedness For Your Horse

Before Disaster Strikes

- Be sure each horse has identification: halter with ID tag, tattoo, brand and/or microchip. Include the name of an out of the area contact in case you can't be reached.
- Have trailers and vans maintained, full of gas, and ready to move at all times. Be sure your horse will load easily into the trailer.
- Contact neighbors who will be willing to take care of your horse in case you are unable to get home. Provide them with keys and phone numbers.
- Make sure nothing can fall on your horse where he is housed.
- Keep current records of your horse's vaccinations. Include information regarding any medications or special feeding instructions, along with the name and phone number of your veterinarian.
- Locate potential evacuation sites in your community. Contact the facilities in advance to find out if they can accommodate your horse.
- Determine the best location to take your horse. Map out several routes to this location. If you are unsure where to take your horse, call your veterinarian or California Veterinary Medical Association.
- In high risk fire areas, clear fire breaks around your house, barns and property lines. Keep fire fighting tools in one location (shovel, ladder, rakes and hoses).
- In flood areas, identify available high ground on your property or nearby evacuation sites.
- Determine alternate water sources in case power is lost and pumps are not working.

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During and after the Disaster

- Do not try to hold on to your horse during an earthquake. Animals will instinctively protect themselves and go where they're safe. When frightened any animal can turn on you.
- Be cautious of local wildlife which may be lost or disoriented.
- Be patient with your horse after the quake. He'll be stressed just like people and need time to readjust. He may disappear for some time, but will generally show up again when things have calmed down.
- Check fences and pastures for damage and foreign objects. Do not let horses roam unattended outside. Keep them in a secure area.
- If your horse is lost during the disaster, contact California Veterinary Medical Association and local animal control immediately. Be prepared to show identification and proof of ownership when claiming your horse
- Check with your veterinarian, the California Veterinary Medical Association, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health Services for disease outbreaks that may have occurred as a result of the disaster.
- When you do find your horse, examine him/her for illness or injuries. Obtain medical attention from your veterinarian if needed.
- If you find someone else's horse, call the California Veterinary Medical Association and local animal control immediately. Isolate the horse from your own until it is returned to its owner or can be examined by a veterinarian. Use extreme caution when approaching and handling strange animals.

If you must leave your horse:

- House your horse in a safe, secure area with adequate ventilation. Leave enough food for at least 3 days. A sufficient supply of water is critical. One animal can easily drink several gallons of water a day when under stress. Place water in containers that aren't easily knocked over, and leave a faucet dripping into a bathtub or sink with an open drain. If you expect flooding, provide access to elevated spaces.
- Place a notice on your front door advising what animals are at the house and where they are located. Provide a telephone number where you or a contact can be reached as well as the name and number of your vet.

Emergency Contact Information

Office of Emergency Services County Animal Coordinator	
Local Animal Control	
CA Veterinary Medical Association County Disaster Coordinator	Call 916-344-4985 for your County's Contact Person During a disaster call 1-800-655-2862
County Agricultural Commissioner	
Your Veterinarian	
Potential Evacuation Sites:	

Horse Survival Kit

- Plastic trash barrel with lid
- Water bucket
- Leg wraps
- Fire resistant non-nylon leads and halters
- Sheet or blanket
- Tarps
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Portable radio and extra batteries
- Sharp knife
- Wire cutters
- Lime/bleach
- Medical records folder including current photos in water tight plastic bag
- Special medications or food
- Three day supply of hay and water